# **MEMORANDUM**

**To** Board of Regents

From: Board Office

**Subject:** Approval of School and Holiday Calendars for the Iowa School for the Deaf

**Date:** May 6, 2002

# **Recommended Action:**

Approve the School and Holiday Calendars for the Iowa School for the Deaf for 2002-03 contingent upon the Governor's signing of SF 2326.

# **Executive Summary:**

Reduced school calendar authorized

 The Legislature has provided ISD the opportunity to conduct a threeyear pilot project using a school calendar that would reduce the number of calendar days it is in session.

175 days vs. 180

ISD proposes 175 days of instruction instead of 180.

Hours of instruction • remains same

- The number of hours of instruction in the school year would remain the same.
- ISD is required to evaluate student progress during the pilot project.

Governor hasn't signed bill

• The Governor has not, at this writing, signed the legislation authorizing the pilot project.

Student performance to be evaluated

 The school has identified a revised calendar and a student evaluation process which the Board is asked to approve, contingent upon the Governor signing the legislation.

# **Background:**

Policy Manual requirement

 In accordance with the <u>Board of Regents Policy Manual</u> §6.12, the Board is asked to approve the school calendar for the Iowa School for the Deaf. The calendar is shown on Attachment A.

## Pending legislation

- SF 2326 passed during this session of the General Assembly gives the Board authority to establish a pilot program to investigate instituting an "innovative" school calendar at ISD. This bill has not been by the signed by the Governor.
- The text of the legislation is as follows:
  - "The state board of regents may establish a three-year pilot program to evaluate the benefits of establishing an innovative school calendar for the school for the deaf. If the board establishes a pilot program in accordance with this section, the board shall provide for the administration of valid and reliable standardized assessments to demonstrate the program's effect on student achievement. Any findings and recommendations resulting from a pilot program established in accordance with this section shall be submitted to the chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house standing committees on education and the joint appropriations subcommittee on education by December 15, 2005. The report shall include a listing of the savings, goals and outcomes, and the effect of the innovative school calendar on student achievement and the school's educational program. This section is repealed effective June 30, 2006."
- As a result of anticipated reductions in state appropriations, Superintendent Johnson is proposing a shortened school calendar for the coming academic year.

### Proposed calendar

- Traditionally K-12 school calendars include 180 instructional days.
   Each instructional day includes six hours of instruction. The proposed calendar contains 175 instructional days.
- In order to provide the same number of instructional hours, the school day will be extended for 30 school days between September 9 and November 11, 2002.
- ISD reports that the shortened calendar would result in savings in salaries of non-faculty school year staff, utilities, food and transportation.

Required evaluation of effect on student achievement

To fulfill the legislative requirement that achievement of students be evaluated during this pilot project, ISD turned to its strategic plan to quantify the use of standardized tests as part of its commitment to continuous school improvement. ISD is further committed to use standardized assessments as a component of its North Central Association accreditation. ISD will use four assessment measures in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, including:

# Four assessment tools

- Routine growth results from Stanford Achievement Test results of general student populations:
- Routine growth results from Stanford Achievement Test results of deaf students;
- North West Evaluation Assessments (NWEA); and
- o ISD teacher assessments.

Holiday calendar

 The holiday calendar, Attachment B, is consistent with the policy of the Board of Regents, state law and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

# **Analysis:**

- ISD has developed a calendar for the pilot project which meets the legislative requirements, including analyzing student results.
- The students would receive the same number of hours of instruction pursuant to the revised calendar of 175 school days as with the pervious calendars of 180 days because of the hour added to the length of 30 school days.
- As the Governor has not signed the authorizing legislation, approval
  of the pilot project is contingent upon SF 2326 becoming law.

Marcia R. Brunson

Approved:

Gregòry S'. Nichols

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# Attachment A

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| 21-23                        |                 |                      |                |           | September 3     |                    | 30              | October 5  | October 25     | October 28         | •               |                        |                           |                |                            |                  | December 1      | 20             | 23 | 24 & 2 | December 31      | January 1      | January 2-3    | January 5       | January 31     | 2 :             |                         | -              | February 28        |                 | March 7 Par               |

| Faculty In-Service | Students Return | Students Leave | Faculty In-Service | Students Return | Students Leave | Students Return | Senior Honors Program | Athletic Awards Program | Commencement | End of Third Trimester | All-School Recognitions | Last Day of School | Students Leave | Memorial Day | Faculty In-Service |
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| racuity in-Service | Residential Staff In-Service | Students Leave | Students Return | Classes Resume | Faculty Off Contract | End of Trimester | School Holiday & ISD | Campus Closed | Dates with "+" indicate as days with | one extra hour of school |
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2002-2003 School Calendar

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# Attachment B

Iowa School for the Deaf FY 2003 Holiday Schedule

Independence Day July 4, 2002

Labor Day September 2

November 28 Thanksgiving Day Day after Thanksgiving November 29

December 24 Holiday December 25 Christmas

News Year's Day January 1, 2003

January 2

Holiday Memorial Day May 26